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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7341

BILL NUMBER: HB 1707

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 4, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Feb 10, 2003

SUBJECT: Professional Standards Board.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Klinker

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Alting

BILL STATUS: As Passed - House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill authorizes the Professional Standards Board to license paraprofessionals. It excludes an individual who is licensed or regulated by the health professions bureau as a paraprofessional for the purpose of this chapter.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* The bill should present minimal start-up costs to the Professional Standards Board (PSB) given that the PSB adopts an examination from their current vendor for teaching certification to license paraprofessionals. Adding an examination from the same vendor would allow the PSB to update their existing database of examinations with an additional exam. The PSB may require a few temporary employees to implement the paraprofessional license. Expenditures for the hiring of temporary workers would come from the Professional Standards Board Licensing Dedicated Fund. The General Assembly appropriated \$110,000 to the Fund for FY 2002-2003. If processed similarly to substitute teacher licenses, the PSB would only verify and issue paraprofessional licenses, where the school corporation would process paraprofessional application paperwork.

Background: Teaching candidates are currently required to pass the PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II examinations according to Indiana standards in order to become certified to teach in Indiana. The PRAXIS examinations are developed and produced by Educational Testing Service (ETS). Candidates pay a fee to ETS to take the exam. ETS provides the testing locations for the pencil/paper version of the PRAXIS examinations and offers them several times per year. Applicants may also take the PRAXIS series via computer at sylvan testing centers.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Summary:* Expenses to implement the paraprofessional examination would be covered by a fee for the certification. As an example, if 10,000 paraprofessionals were licensed at a \$15 fee, the potential revenue generated would be \$150,000. This revenue would be used to cover the administrative costs of certification. The Board would, by rules, determine the actual fee for paraprofessional licensing.

Teaching candidates pay a \$35 fee for the PSB to issue a teacher certification. Substitute teachers pay a \$15 fee. Revenue from teacher licensing is deposited into the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* Currently, school corporations hire, fire, and administrate paraprofessionals. Under the bill, school corporations could save some administrative time, with the PSB assuming the licensing function of paraprofessionals.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Dr. Judy Miller, Professional Standards Board.

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.